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154X (ADD POWERS)

FEBRUARY 12, 1962

(350)

*JSW*  
*mem*  
*Powers*

WASHINGTON--FIRST ADD POWERS-SENATE (ADMK) X X X WEEKEND.

SEN. STROM THURMOND, D-G.C., SUGGESTED THAT POWERS BE CALLED BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO TELL HIS STORY IN A PUBLIC HEARING.

"IN FAIRNESS TO MR. POWERS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR HIS STORY FROM MR. POWERS HIMSELF," THURMOND SAID IN A STATEMENT.

"IF THERE IS NO BLAME, THIS OUGHT TO BE BROUGHT OUT."

SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., HEADS THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. RUSSELL'S OFFICE SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON THURMOND'S PROPOSAL.

BUT SEN. HOWARD W. CANNON, D-MEY., DECLARED: "I WAS DISAPPOINTED IN MR. POWERS' CONDUCT AFTER HIS CAPTURE," SAID HE WISHED THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WOULD CALL THE F2 PILOT FOR QUESTIONING.

CANNON SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF TRAINING OR INDOCTRINATION POWERS HAD RECEIVED TO PREPARE HIM FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF CAPTURE.

STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER LINCOLN WHITE DECLINED COMMENT ON SPARKMAN'S REQUEST FOR A REPORT TO THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

SPARKMAN'S LETTER SAID THERE HAD BEEN CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CARL MARCY, THE COMMITTEE'S STAFF DIRECTOR, AND FRED DUTTON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, "CONCERNING THE DESIRE OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS TO RECEIVE A FULL REPORT ON THE INTERROGATION OF FRANCIS SCOTT POWERS."

"AS YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE CONDUCTED LENGTHY HEARINGS ON THE U2 INCIDENT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1960," SPARKMAN WROTE. "AT THAT TIME WE EXAMINED WITNESSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE."

"WE ARE INTERESTED NOW IN COMPLETING THOSE HEARINGS BY RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION AS MAY NOW BE AVAILABLE FROM MR. POWERS."

MANSFIELD TOLD A REPORTER IT WAS "SOUND AND REASONABLE" FOR THE COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON WHATEVER INFORMATION POWERS GIVES HIS QUESTIONERS.

SEN. ALBERT CORE, D-TENN. SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE IN MIND CALLING POWERS PERSONALLY, "AND I AM SURE THE DEPARTMENTS WILL PROVIDE THIS BRIEFING, AS IS CUSTOMARY."

OTHER MEMBERS SAID THEY WANT INFORMATION, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ON WHETHER POWERS' PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY A RUSSIAN ROCKET, AS WAS CLAIMED BY SOVIET PREMIER NIKITA S. KHRUSHCHEV, OR CRASHED AS A RESULT OF SOME MECHANICAL FAILURE.

ANOTHER QUESTION THEY RAISED IS HOW THE RUSSIANS RECOVERED THE PLANE VIRTUALLY INTACT IF IT WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF MORE THAN 60,000 FEET. THEY ALSO WANT TO KNOW WHY POWERS DID NOT EXERCISE HIS OPTION TO DESTROY THE PLANE, ITS CAMERAS AND DID NOT EXERCISE HIS OPTION TO DESTROY THE EQUIPMENT, AND POSSIBLY HIMSELF, TO KEEP THEM FROM THE RUSSIANS.

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